

those while a Member of the Congress, but I learned that those who opposed me, those who disagreed with me could still be my friends, that I could have respect for them.

I look out and I see Ab Mikva, who served on the Committee on Ways and Means with me on the Democrat side. We rarely voted together, rarely. But we became very, very good personal friends, and I have always held him in high respect because he was motivated to do what he believed was correct, what he believe was right for the country. And it is an incredible miracle that we can come together, whether in this Chamber or over in the other body, and, see, I still know I cannot call it the Senate, and we can make it work.

This representative democracy within a Republic, the oldest democracy in the world, continues to work because we bring together the diverse views, and sometimes we get emotional, and sometimes we cloak our position in extreme rhetoric, but for the most part we do respect each other, and we do keep the country moving forward. I am sure that Washington and Franklin and Jefferson and Madison look down on what happens here and say, "We put down a pretty good foundation. It has worked." And I know that I always felt that the moments that I could be in this Capitol were the most stimulating events of my life because we can never forget that right here, right where we are today, is the center of freedom for the entire world, and what we do impacts not only the 280 plus million Americans, but the entire world. It is an awesome responsibility, but one that has been discharged by all of you who are former Members and continues to be discharged today by those who come together here to make democracy work.

I thank you so much, and I tried to keep my remarks within the 5-minute rule.

Mr. MAZZOLI. Will the gentleman yield just 1 second?

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that I am the only person in today who is a member, as our honoree, of our wonderful and fabled congressional class of the 92nd Congress. And as a Member of that class, Bill, I want to tell you what grace you have brought to our class, what an honor it is to have you in our midst.

Mr. BUECHNER (presiding). The Chair joins in the accolades of the gentleman from Texas and returns the time to the gentleman from Idaho.

Mr. LAROCO. Thank you again, Bill, for your friendship and service and for being with us today and receiving this award from your peers.

Mr. Speaker, the members of the Association were honored and proud to serve in the U.S. Congress. We are continuing our service, and I hope that is demonstrated by our report today here on the floor of House of Representatives. Again, thank you for letting us return to the Chamber. I want to thank the Speaker of the House, DENNIS

HASTERT, for giving us this time to make our report.

This concludes our 33rd Annual Report by the United States Association of Former Members of Congress, and I hope you will join us today and tomorrow for our continuing activities here in the Nation's Capitol. Thank you very much. I am proud to be your President and proud to be part of this Association, and I thank you all for your participation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman from Idaho for his service both today and the past year to the Former Members Association.

The Chair again wishes to thank the Former Members of the House for their presence here today.

Before terminating these proceedings, the Chair would like to invite those former Members who did not respond when the roll was called to give their names to the reading clerks for inclusion on the roll.

The Chair wishes to thank the other former Members of the House for their presence here today, and, again, good luck to you all. We wish to have you join in the other proceedings today and tonight.

The Chair announces that the House will reconvene at 11 a.m.

Accordingly, (at 10 o'clock and 30 minutes a.m.), the House continued in recess.

□ 1107

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON) at 11 o'clock and 7 minutes a.m.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and that all Members and former Members who spoke during the recess have the privilege of revising and extending their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

PASSAGE OF H.R. 2

(Mr. SHUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, last week the House of Representatives passed the job package introduced by President Bush. This bill gives the economy an immediate shot in the arm by leaving working families with more of their hard-earned money through accelerated income tax relief. Right now too many workers feel a squeeze in

their wallet because they are taxed too highly, but help is on the way.

H.R. 2 will aid any American family looking to pay bills or put food on the dinner table by letting those families keep more of those hard-earned dollars. Just as importantly, H.R. 2 will help create more jobs for American workers by including provisions encouraging business investment. This bill breathes new life into every company struggling to survive by increasing tax-deductible investments. If we help businesses remain competitive and growing, we in turn can help them create new jobs.

There is yet one more hurdle for H.R. 2 to make a difference in America. H.R. 2 must pass the other Chamber. I rise today to urge my friends on the other side of the Capitol to move forward and pass the legislation quickly. The American people are waiting.

EXTENDING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS

(Ms. BALDWIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, Congress just does not get it. That is exactly what I would be thinking if I was one of the 14,400 workers in my home State of Wisconsin or the 1 million workers nationwide who are unemployed and are about to exhaust their unemployment insurance benefits in 2 weeks. I cannot imagine the frustration these workers must feel after months of looking for jobs with little to no success, only to come home after a long day of looking for work to pick up a paper and read that the House of Representatives adjourned after another week of light legislative work without extending unemployment benefits.

Earlier this week more than 80 employees at Riverwood International Corporation, a beverage carton plant in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, were told that they were losing their jobs. This is just one example of many companies in Wisconsin that have decided to close their doors for good. Wisconsin had the third highest number of massive layoff claims this past March.

Congress should stay here and extend unemployment benefits.

NATIONAL TOURISM WEEK

(Ms. BORDALLO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for House Congressional Resolution 172 introduced last week by our colleagues, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) and the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR), the cochairs of the Travel and Tourism Caucus. I commend them for their leadership on this issue.

The tourism industry is vital to the economy of the United States. It is the